


REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application and are amended herein. New claims 3-8 are added.

The Examiner objects to FIGs. 5-7, requesting that the label --Prior Art-- be added to these drawings. Applicants submit drawing amendments herein making this change, and therefore request that the objection be withdrawn.

 The Examiner has objected to the specification requesting correction of language therein. A substitute specification is submitted herewith, together with a markup showing the changes made. The substitute specification includes no new matter.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended these claims with attention to the Examiner's concerns, and now respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn in view of these changes.

The Examiner rejects the claims as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. 3,606,187 (Hahn) in combination with the prior art figures 5-7 of this application and also as being obvious in view of U.S. 4,496,114 (Kataoka et al) in combination with the prior art figures 5-7 of this application.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Regarding Hahn, it uses a bar 17 that rolls to engage with the surface of the tube. It is apparent from study of this patent that it does not intend for the bar 17 to be deformable.

With regard to Kataoka et al, it employs rollers 4, which may be solid or tubular. From study of the specification of Kataoka et al, it is apparent that the intent in this particular document is that the rollers 4 are intended to be rigid, not flexible or deformable as is the tube 74, for example, in applicants' invention.

While the Examiner asserts it would be obvious to provide the invention in view of these documents together with FIGs. 5-7 of the application, applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious, since the desirability of the deforming feature is taught only by applicants, not by the documents relied upon.

Applicants wonder if perhaps the Examiner is interpreting the word "flexible" in a manner differently than what is intended. To clarify this point, applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to instead use the term "deformable". In view of these arguments and amendments, claims 1 and 2 are submitted to be allowable. The documents relied on do not teach or suggest applicants' claimed invention.

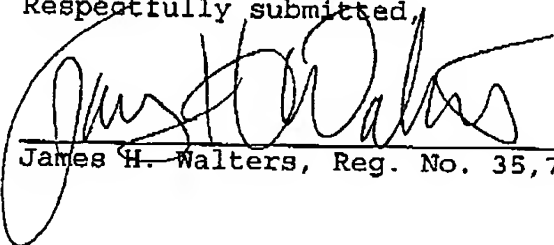
New claims 3-8 are added with this response, and are also submitted to be allowable.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim,

unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



James H. Walters, Reg. No. 35,731

Customer number 802
DELLETT AND WALTERS
Suite 1101
310 S. W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204 US
(503) 224-0115
DOCKET: Y-199

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on this 13th day of June, 2003.

